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Before taking Life Insurance write for rates in the great Policy-holder Company.  
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### THE OLD CHURCH CHOIR.

I seem to hear the voices  
And the songs they used to sing,  
The sweet reverberation  
"Jesus All to Thee I Bring."  
I see the old choir in its place  
Just as it used to be,  
And softly through the years comes back  
"Near, My God, to Thee."  
And the voices, O, the voices  
Of the happy long ago,  
To my listening soul are singing  
All the songs I used to know.  
Comes an echo far and faintly  
Of the world that is to be,  
Like a benediction, saintly  
"Rock of Ages Cleft for Me."  
Friends of other days, I see them,  
Gathered in that holy place;  
They are singing of my Saviour  
"When I Meet Him Face to Face."  
Still the melody is ringing,  
Swelling to that old church dome,  
Sweetest peace to me is bringing  
"When We'll Be Gathered Home."

And my life, though lone and friendless,  
Sorrow's billows round me roll,  
Yet they speak of joy that's endless,  
"Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Far across the gloom and shadows  
Gleams a beacon fair and bright,  
Pilot of my soul forever,  
"Lead Thou Me, O Kindly Light."  
Lead, and with thy beams to guide me  
I at last shall reach the goal,  
Storms of life no more bedevil me,  
"Where the Surges Cease to Roll."  
—Alfred Stowe Gilbert, in *Houston Post*.

### DOMESTICATION OF CATS.

Greeks Seem to Have Employed  
the Feline in Hunting.

The domestication of cats appears to have been a comparatively recent thing. There is no mention whatever in the Bible of cats, the talmud found in the prophetic probably being jackals. Nor does the allusion of the Greeks seem to have been domesticated until a late day, and the Romans did not welcome the cat to their firesides until the days of Pliny. The Egyptians seem to have had various species of this animal, three of which are still to be found in Africa, but inasmuch as no cat is depicted on any monument contemporary with the Pyramids, we may conclude that it was not domesticated even in Egypt before the year 1688 B. C., that being the oldest date deducible from the "Funeral Ritual," where the cat is sometimes seen under the armchair of the mistress of the house, along with dogs and monkeys.

Evidently the cat was a much more valuable animal at that time than in this day, and it was probably to encourage the breeding of it that it was admitted into the class regarded as sacred, says Harper's Weekly. The cat was used in hunting, there being pictures extant which show cats springing from boats into the marshes to retrieve the ducks which have been killed by their masters. In a painting found in a Theban tomb a cat is represented standing on her hind legs resting her front paws on the knee of a man who is about to throw the crooked stick called a shott, which resembles the Australian boomerang, at some game.

There are many false ideas regarding the cat held by a great many persons, among others that a cat can see better at night than in the daytime, and that it is able to see in perfect darkness. As a matter of fact, the cat, like all other animals cannot see at all in perfect darkness, though, with the assistance of its whiskers or feelers, and its sure-footedness, it is able to move about with some agility. A cat can see better in the dusk than a human being, however, because the cat's eyes are sensitive to the ultra-violet rays of the spectrum, and the pupil is capable of great expansion, thus admitting all the light there is available; but see in absolute darkness it cannot.

Another firmly-rooted idea is that cats, if given the opportunity, will catch the breath out of sleeping children. This is utterly absurd. A cat, liking a warm, clean place, will, if it has a chance, slip into a child's crib, and, if the crib is narrow, may happen to take up a position on top of the baby. As a good-sized cat will average ten pounds in weight, while an average baby at one month of age will weigh only eight pounds and at four months only twelve and one-half pounds, it may be readily comprehended, if we imagine a proportionate weight in warm flesh and soft fur on top of our own bodies, that it may be a serious thing—the baby may be smothered to death, as has sometimes happened. As for the cat sucking the breath from the child, the shape of the cat's mouth makes it impossible, even if it should so desire, for it to interrupt respiration by the mouth and the nose of the child at the same time. In Holland cats are bred as fur-bearing animals.

### KILL ONE—

English sparrow now and it means more than a dozen put out of the way later on. They are nesting, and are great repeaters.  
Kill one fly now and it may prevent thousands later on. They are worse breeders than the pernicious sparrow.  
To kill off the English sparrow means more song birds and more grain and fruit. They destroy untold wealth in cherries, strawberries and other fruits, besides driving away insectivorous birds by their incessant chatter.  
To keep down flies means to keep down doctors' bills—if nothing more. The manure pile, the filthy stable, or other pile of filth, means "millions of them." Get rid of the filth and you will have fewer flies.

### FAMOUS AS FISH EATERS.

Greeks And Romans Fond of Sea Food—Sturgeon Only For Kings.

Many famous persons both in modern and ancient times have been known as devoted fish eaters. Gaius, Queen of Syria, was so fond of fish that she ordered all caught within the limit of her kingdom to be brought to her in order that she might be continually supplied with the choicest quality. Philoxenus of Cytheria, on learning from his physician that he must die of indigestion from having eaten excessively of a delicious fish, said: "Be it so, but before I go allow me to finish what remains."

Athens was a city of fish eaters and its cooks were famous for their knowledge of cooking fish. The wise writers of the day spent much time in recording receipts for preserving fish in salt, oil or herbs. There was a law in the city that forbade a fishmonger to sit down until he had disposed of all his stock on the ground that a standing position made him more submissive and inclined to sell at a reasonable price. How would that do for the Beef Trust?

The Romans inherited from the Greeks their love for fish. Her soldiers were fed on fish, her generals ate fish, her Senators were epicures in fish and her Emperors recognized no dish more desirable than fish.  
Lucullus caused a canal to be cut through a mountain near Naples to bring up the sea and its fishes to the center of the gardens of his sumptuous villa. The love of fish in those days was a mania. The red mullet was prized above all food. A sauce called garum, made from the entrails and blood of mackerel and other fishes, brought high prices, and great prizes were offered the man who could make a similar sauce out of the liver of the red mullet.

In modern times kings have been known for their liking of fish. In the reign of Edward II in England sturgeon could be served only on the king's table. In France fishmongers were licensed by the King. Louis XII was so fond of fish he appointed six fishmongers to supply his table. Francis I had twenty-two and Henry the Great twenty-four.

Under the reign of Louis XIV fish eating became as popular at the French court as it has ever been in Rome. A story is told that when fish failed to arrive from the sea coast in time for a grand dinner being given by the Prince of Conde to the King, the Prince's chef, an illustrious purveyor of fish, was so chagrined he ran to his chamber, took his sword and pierced his heart.

### MOST BLUE-BLOODED NOBLE IN THE WORLD.

Far and away the most interesting figure at the impending celebration of the centenary of the University of Berlin will be the senior living lineal descendant of Confucius, and prospective father-in-law of the now four-year-old Emperor Pu-Yi. This august dignitary who is to head the special embassy from the city of Peking, bears the official title of Sheng-Kung, which means "The Holy Duke," and is, by virtue of his ancestry, hereditary Inspector-General of Education of the Empire. A little over fifty years of age, and seventy-sixth in unbroken descent in the male line from Confucius, he may be regarded as the most blue-blooded noble in the world, the more so as he is still in possession of the landed property which belonged to the illustrious founder of his house 3,000 years ago, that is to say, some twelve centuries before the birth of Christ.

The property is situated in the Province of Shang-Tung, and it comprises the tomb of Confucius at Ky-Fu and his residence. The duke, whose name is Kung-Ling, that is to say, Duke of Ling, is a tall, heavy-faced Chinaman of somewhat massive build, with arched majestic presence and a good-humored face, the mouth inclined to laughter and in keeping with the shrewd cheery eyes.

Though regarded as a saint, he is a very jovial saint, and if popular rumor is in his home province of Shang-Tung is to be believed, is extremely fond of all the good things of life. He is very rich, since each generation of Emperors, Chinese as well as Manchus, have lavished gifts upon the Holy Duke of his day. Every now and again he visits Peking, where he is received with imposing honors, and on these occasions he does not decline to travel by rail, as he does not disdain to travel by rail.

I would add that in every school and college throughout China there is an altar to Confucius, and that inasmuch as each student is obliged to bow the knee to the altar, and that the service of the state is restricted to graduates of these schools, it has the effect of virtually excluding native Christians from government service. With all that, the duke is very enlightened and far from being reactionary; is fully alive to the advantages of reform; quite as keen about the matter, indeed, as the late Li-Hung-Chang. Of this he gave not a word a striking illustration, when, to the amazement of all conservative Chinamen, he granted permission for the Peking-Hankow Railroad line to traverse his estates.

One of the cleverest moves made by the Prince Regent of China during the last year was when he announced his intention of betrothing his son, the young Emperor, to a granddaughter of the Holy Duke, that is to say, to a maiden of the purest Chinese blood, instead of to one of the Manchus princesses, from whom the monarch's consorts have until now been chosen. This intimation has gone far towards reconciling the bulk of the Chinese people to the reigning dynasty, and towards obliterating the antagonism that has existed for several hundred years between the Chinese and the Manchus.

### FORGET IT.

If you see a tall fellow ahead of the crowd,  
A leader of men, marching fearless and proud,  
And you know of a tale whose telling  
Would cause his proud head to in anguish be bowed,  
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a skeleton hidden away  
In a closet, and guarded and kept from the day,  
Whose showing, whose sudden display  
Would cause grief, sorrow, life-long dismay,  
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a spot in the life of a friend,  
(We all have such spots concealed,  
World with out end),  
Whose touching his heartstrings would  
Till the shame of its showing no grieving could mend,  
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a thing that will darken the joy  
Of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy,  
That will wipe out a smile or the least way annoy  
A fellow, or cause any gladness to cloy,  
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a thing, just the least  
Whose telling would creak up a laugh or a grin,  
Of a man you don't like, for Lord's sake  
Keep it and don't tell,  
Don't, don't be a knocker, right here  
Stick a pin,  
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.  
—Exchange.

### NARRAGANSETT BAY HUGE OYSTER FARM.

Over 15,000 Acres There Given Up To Propagating The Bivalves.

To all intents and purposes Narragansett bay is one huge oyster farm, more than 15,000 acres of its waters being under cultivation. It is hard to realize that from 20 to 50 feet under the surface there are laid out in mechanical regularity farms as large as any of those on shore.

A Rhode Island oyster farm ranges in size from those of two or three acres to others of many hundreds. These farms of the sea are widely different from those on shore, for while the latter are circumscribed by a rule by their own boundaries, the fields of the former are widely scattered, some arriving from the sea coast in time for a grand dinner being given by the Prince of Conde to the King, the Prince's chef, an illustrious purveyor of fish, was so chagrined he ran to his chamber, took his sword and pierced his heart.

The oyster farmer pays the State an annual rental of from \$5 to \$10 an acre for his ground—more than \$100,000. This is more than any other State derives from its oyster business.

The present great planting industry had for its nucleus the transplanting of 75 years ago of a number of shiploads of Virginia oysters. These were placed in the Providence river.

At that time the oyster industry of the State was confined in great part to the city of Providence, practically all the oyster beds being located within what are now the city limits. One of the tongs' favorite spots was the site of the present railroad station.

As the years went by the industry gradually developed, having each year a little more value to the State and a little more profit to those engaged in it. But even 20 years ago, according to a writer in the National Magazine, the methods employed were very different from those of today.

There now 120 steam and gasoline boats are continually engaged, then less than a dozen vessels of any size graced the waters of the bay and practically all the oysters grown in the State were brought in from other localities, chiefly from Connecticut and Virginia.

### THE REASON WHY WE SAY "YOURS SINCERELY."

Have you ever reflected, when you finish up your letter, "Yours sincerely, John Smith," why you do so? Well, if you subscribed yourself "Yours without wax, John Smith," it would amount to the same thing. Here's how:

When the Roman jurymen returned their verdicts they usually did so on a wax tablet. In cases, however, where the verdict was so overwhelming in favor of a person as to allow for any offense they were allowed to give their verdict "Sine cera"—that is to say, without wax or without going to the formality of inscribing their verdict on the wax tablet (cera). So, when you subscribe yourself "Yours sincerely" to a person, you mean—when you are serious, of course—that your regard for him is above board. "Yours faithfully" is the business style; "Yours truly" the indifferent, and "Yours, etc.," the most unpardonable of epistolary atrocities, according to the unwritten code.

An English Cabinet minister, when writing to you in the official style, will subscribe himself "Your obedient, humble servant." A Frenchman will tell you that "he remains with special sentiments of the highest consideration" your Jules Le Mouton. A Chinaman will say, "Farewell, most favored of heaven. May the gods preserve your honorable teeth."

### SAVED FROM THE GRAVE.

"I had about given up hope, after nearly four years of suffering from a severe lung trouble," writes Mrs. M. L. Dix, of Clarksville, Tenn. "Often the pain in my chest would be almost unbearable and I could not do any work, but Dr. King's New Discovery has made me feel like a new person. It is the best medicine made for the throat and lungs." Obsolete coughs, stubborn colds, hay fever, a croup, asthma, croup, bronchitis and hemorrhages, hoarseness and whooping cough, yield quickly to this wonderful medicine. Try it. 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free. Guaranteed by all Druggists.

### A TOWN'S MISFORTUNE.

[Northampton Times.]  
There is no other individual in the average country town, who has abetter opportunity to read and know the peculiar characteristics of its citizens than its local editor, and many a time he is tempted to call attention to some misdeeds that come within his scope of vision; but as soon as he does it, there are respectable and influential citizens who are ready to condemn his course.  
It is a part of the editor's business to study the community in all its phases. If we were to express our views on every subject that came to our notice, and record every misdeed that transpired, we would soon have to "take up our bed and walk." That we have a free press in America is all a myth. The community at large exercises a most damaging censorship over it by its indifference when the press says only the things about a town; and on the other hand, when it strikes out from the shoulder against some evil it is looked upon as a menace to the community by exposing its shortcomings. The following from our valuable exchange—THE VIRGINIA CITIZEN—will bear us out in our statement:  
"The editor strives in season and out to build up his town and give it a good name. Some of them give the best years and energy of their life to this end. To have a few miscreants continually doing dirty acts or talking scandal drags down a place and undoes the work of a lifetime. These hope for their parents' sakes that the editor will not air their misdeeds, and many escape because of this. But no public-spirited man can afford to be a party to keeping such things quiet, let alone aiding and encouraging lawless characters to continue their nefarious work, no matter how much he dislikes to give publicity to his town's misfortune."

The above quotation has a world of meaning to it. It means that it is in the power of a local editor—who, by the way, is supposed to be a public-spirited man—to expose and shield the misdeeds of a community. It means further, that by virtue of his position, he should at all times uphold virtue and truth, no matter who it hurts. THE CITIZEN is right in its conclusions; but hardly one in a hundred of the best citizens of the town and community is willing to identify himself in exposing the wrongs of a few lawless characters. The editor must stand alone in his efforts at moral persuasion, or remain entirely indifferent to what he sees going on around him. It is true that it's a town's misfortune that such is the case, while much good would be done if the editor was encouraged by its best citizens when he undertook, by moral persuasion or otherwise, to uphold moral decency and the enforcement of law and order.

### THE DEMON OF THE AIR

Is the germ of Le Grippe, that, breathed in, brings suffering to thousands. Its after effects are weakness, nervousness, lack of appetite, energy and ambition, with disordered liver and kidneys. The greatest need then is Electric Bitters, the splendid tonic, blood purifier and regulator of Stomach, Liver and Kidneys. Thousands have proved its wonderful strengthening the nerves, build up the system and restore health and good spirits after an attack of grip. If suffering, try them. Only 50c. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by all Druggists.

### AFRO-AMERICAN NOTES.

[Crowded out last week.]  
Wm. Corbin, of Washington, was on vacation the past week at his home near Moulton.

Fielding Taylor, of Avalon, was here last week on business with his brother, Nathan, at the law office of Mr. F. G. Newbill.

Mr. Turner, of Kilmarnock, has installed gasoline lights in Calvary Baptist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Rancey, of Sparrows Point, Md., were called here last week by the death of the former's mother, Mrs. Catherine Carter, who died Saturday. Interment near Rehoboth Church.

Mrs. William Montague and daughter, Mrs. Robert Nickens, of Kilmarnock, visited Alfred Carter, at Moran, last week.

The church Aid Society met with Mrs. T. Johnson last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Waddy spent Sunday with parents near Browns Store. Miss Emma Grayson left Tuesday for a week's stay in Baltimore.

Among the sick this week are: Mrs. Lettie Corbin, Mrs. Jas. C. Fisher and David Smith. Miss Caroline Taylor, who has been sick for several weeks, is able to be out again.

Rev. D. Tucker performed the ceremony in the wedding of Ambrose Deleaver and Miss Elenora Smith instead of Rev. A. H. Montague as we reported last week.

### REMOVE STABLE MANURE.

War on the housefly, to be effective, must start promptly with the season, and be directed against the first appearance of the insect. The slaughter of ten flies at the opening of the season means more to health and comfort, than the killing of ten thousand after the season is one month old. Screens and other means of exclusion are well enough and should not be neglected, but the proper remedy is more heroic—kill and spare not!—Index-Appel.

### PLACES CIVILIZATION FAR BACK.

Dr. Meyer said that recently he discovered certain chronological dates recorded on tablets which prove conclusively that the higher development of Egyptian civilization began 7,000 years ago, or 5,000 years B. C. There are monuments in Egypt that date back to 4,000 to 5,000 years B. C. The Professor said that the Egyptians drank beer and that jars of this fluid were placed in their tombs for the refreshment of the spirits.

### MR. CAN'T MR. CAN.

Oh, Mr. Can't from Mr. Can  
Is a very different sort of a man.  
For Mr. Can he always tries,  
And Mr. Can't he always cries;  
Now Mr. Can gets many a blow,  
But he gets the best in the end, you know.  
While Mr. Can't gets nothing at all—  
For he's down too low to suffer a fall—  
Oh, Mr. Can gets up with a grin,  
And he says: "I'm bound in the end to win."

But Mr. Can't is a pitiful sight,  
For he's whipped before he's begun to fight;  
And he says that it puzzles him quite a lot  
Why some can do it and some cannot.

Oh, poor Mr. Can't, for he never knew  
The secret I'm going to whisper you;  
That you jolly well can if you only try.  
And you certainly can't if you only cry.

And that is the reason why Mr. Can  
From Mr. Can't is a different man.  
—George Phillips, in *St. Nicholas*.

### GROWS BLACK COTTON AND ROSES.

Southern Man Claims to Have Made Remarkable Discovery.

There is a rheumatic cripple, of Savannah, Ga., that threatens to revolutionize floral culture and the cultivation of cotton. His name is Dennis Trayley and he is now in Washington trying to obtain a patent on his formula. Until he does this he is not willing to talk very much about his discovery, but he makes the assertion that he can mix three inexpensive and common chemicals into a fluid, and with it produce black cotton at one-tenth the expense of dye. He also says that he has produced black roses, and he declares that any flower can be cultivated so that its blooms will be black.

### Like Watering a Plant.

"After 15 years of experimenting I have discovered a process by which black roses and black cotton may be produced," Trayley says. "The formula is inexpensive chemicals which are diluted with water. 'I have taken an ordinary rosebush and planted it in rich earth, and by feeding it this chemical fluid have produced a rose as large and heavy as an American Beauty and as black as coal. The petals of this rose have the same gloss and lustre as the American Beauty. The feeding process is exactly the same as watering a plant.'

"As the first shoots of the bush push up through the earth an extraordinary darkness can be noticed. As they grow their colors become darker. The same is true of the foliage. The leaves of the bush are almost black. The buds when they appear are black.

"One of the peculiarities of the process is that after a certain number of applications during the first year it can be stopped and for two seasons the plant will bear black flowers. If the feeding process is not continued in the third year the bush will again assume its natural state.

### Treats Cotton the Same.

"What is true of the rose is true of all other flowers and also of cotton. By the use of my chemical secret I can produce black cotton and it will cost little or nothing as compared with black dye. One of the features is that the chemicals seem to have a general good effect on the plants. Those I have experimented upon have grown to extraordinary size and are of a fine fibre. 'The day my process is patented I can dispose of it for \$500,000. This proposition has been made me.'

It was in the spring and long summer evenings after he went home from work that Dennis would plant roses and cultivate them. From early boyhood he had one thought, that of producing a black rose. First he tried grafting. Failing, he began the use of chemicals. This thought occurred to him after seeing a farmer spread lime on the fields which he was to cultivate. Dennis believed that if light soil and lime would produce a light sugar cane, and light colored syrup, some chemical might produce the black rose. About five years ago, he says, he produced the first bloom of black roses, also black cotton. Later he produced other black blooms.

### WORSE THAN BULLETS.

Bullets have often caused suffering to soldiers than the eczema L. W. Harriman, Burlington, Me., got in the army, and suffered with, forty years. "But Bucklen's Aches and Pains Sore, Ulcers, Boils, Burns, Cuts, Wounds, Bruises and Piles. 25c at all Druggists."

### COMET NOT YET VISIBLE.

Halley's Comet may be observed in the early morning by telescope, but is not as yet visible to the naked eye. The bright star in the east just now before sunrise is Venus and not the comet.

A great many people attribute this long and unusual spell of warm weather in March to the comet, and others predict a hot and dry summer as a result of the comet's proximity.

### WHEN IN NORFOLK STOP AT "THE ATLANTIC."

Most conveniently located Hotel—CORNER IN AND GRANBY STS.

Rooms \$1.00 and \$1.50.

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Fine Cafe (Lynn's) newly fitted up on first floor.

Rappahannock Valley people make it headquarters.

### Does not Color the Hair

Ingredients of Ayer's Hair Vigor  
Sulphur. Destroys germs that cause dandruff and falling hair. Cures rashes and eruptions of scalp.  
Glycerin. Softening, healing. Food for the hair-balls.  
Quinine. Astringent tonic, antiseptic, stimulant.  
Sodium Chloride. Cleansing, quiet irritation of scalp.  
Capicum. Increases activity of glands.  
Sage. Stimulant, tonic. Domestic remedy of high merit.  
Alcohol. Stimulant, antiseptic. Water. Perfume.

Show this formula to your doctor. Ask him if there is a single injurious ingredient. Ask him if he thinks Ayer's Hair Vigor, as made from this formula, is the best preparation you could use for falling hair, or for dandruff. Let him decide. He knows.

J. C. AYER COMPANY, Lowell, Mass.

### Scott's Emulsion

is a wonderful food-medicine for all ages of mankind. It will make the delicate, sickly baby strong and well—will give the pale, anemic girl rosy cheeks and rich, red blood. It will put flesh on the bones of the tired, overworked, thin man, and will keep the aged man or woman in condition to resist colds or pneumonia in the winter.

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